

Remarks/Arguments:

Please change the attorney docket number for this matter to "42706-1200".

In regard to the drawing objections, proposed amendments are presented herein which add element names in addition to element reference numbers to figure 1 and 3-8 as requested.

Claims 1-12 remain in this application. Claims 1-12 have been amended herein to make them correspond to the form that they were in when the International Preliminary Examination Report, a copy of which is attached hereto, was issued. These amendments are not being made in response to the current rejection but simply reintroduce amendments made during the international phase of the application.

Claims 1-12 were rejected as being unpatentable over Inagaki et al., US 6,657, 637 (Inagaki). However, Inagaki is not a prior art reference as the international filing date, 18 June 1998, of the present application is the date to keep in mind when searching the prior art. Moreover, Applicant is entitled to the priority date of 18 June 1997 based on an earlier filed UK Application. Inagaki has a priority date of 30 July 1998, a PCT filing date of 29 July 1999, and was filed in the US on 6 March 2000. Even if Inagaki was published the day its priority document was filed, it would not constitute prior art as that date, 30 July 1998, falls after both the international filing date and the priority date of the present application.

It is believed that the case is now in condition for allowance, and an early notification of the same is requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this case, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendments, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on July 19, 2004.

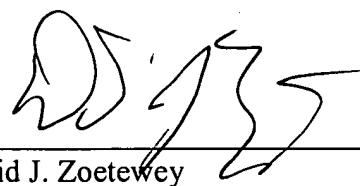
By: James Lee


Signature

Dated: July 19, 2004

Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.


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